BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation filed Against:) :)	
DALE R. MONGRAIN, M.D. Certificate No. G-29446) No: D1-1997-8034	0
Respondent)) _)	

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Division of Medical Quality as its Decision in the above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2004

IT IS SO ORDERED March 11, 2004

Bv

STEVEN RUBINS, M.D.

Panel B

Division of Medical Quality

1 2 3 4 5	of the State of California D. KENNETH BAUMGARTEN Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 124371 California Department of Justice 110 West A Street, Suite 1100 Post Office Box 85266 San Diego, California 92816-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2195 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061 Attorneys for Complainant			
9	BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	SE NOs. D-1 1997-080340		
12		19-2000-114368		
13		IPULATED SETTLEMENT		
14	Physician and Surgeon's	AND SCIPLINARY ORDER		
15	II	SCII EINAKI ORDEK		
16	Respondent.			
17	7			
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREEI), by and between the parties to		
19	the above-entitled proceedings, that the following matters are	true:		
20	PARTIES			
21	1. Ron Joseph, ("Complainant") is the Exe	1. Ron Joseph, ("Complainant") is the Executive Director of the Medical		
22	Board of California and has brought this action solely in his official capacity. Complainant is			
23	represented by the Attorney General of California, Bill Lockyer, by Deputy Attorney General			
24	D. Kenneth Baumgarten.			
25	2. Dale R. Mongrain, M.D., ("Respondent") is represented in this matter			
26	by Mr. William R. Winship, Jr., Esq., 591 Camino De La Reina, Suite 300, San Diego, CA			
27	7 92108; (619) 297-0066.			
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JURISDICTION

3. At all times relevant herein, Respondent has been licensed by the Medical Board of California under Physician and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 29446.

- 4. Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation, number D-1 1997-080340 and Case No.19-2000-114368, were filed with the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs ("Division") on or about March 28, 2002, and are currently pending against Respondent.
- 5. On or about April 3, 2002, Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation in this matter. A copy of the pending Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation, No. D-1 1997-080340 / 19-2000-114368, is attached as **Exhibit A** and is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

ADVISEMENTS AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent and his attorney hereby acknowledge they have fully read and discussed the charges contained in Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation, No. D-1 1997-080340 / 19-2000-114368. Respondent acknowledges he has been fully advised of and understands his legal rights in this matter and understands the effect this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order will have on his California Physician and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 7. Respondent further acknowledges he understands the nature of the charges alleged in the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation and that, if proven at a hearing, the charges and allegations contained therein would constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician and Surgeon's Certificate. Respondent further acknowledges he is fully aware of his right to a hearing on the charges contained in the Accusation, his right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against him, his right to the use of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents in both defense and mitigation of the charges, his right to reconsideration, court review and any and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

8. In order to avoid the expense and uncertainty of trial, Respondent knowingly, voluntarily and irrevocably waives and gives up each of these rights.

- 9. For purposes of settlement, Respondent hereby admits that at a hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facia case with respect to the allegations contained in the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation, appended hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- 10. By signing this Stipulation, Respondent hereby acknowledges he understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement hereto, or seek to rescind the Stipulation, once it has been submitted to, considered and/or acted upon by the Division.
- 11. The parties agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the original Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, and signatures thereto.
- 12. Respondent agrees to be bound by the Division's Disciplinary Order as set forth below.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulated matters, the parties agree the Division shall, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

14. **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician and Surgeon's Certificate number G 29446, issued to Dale R. Mongrain, M.D., is **revoked**. However, such revocation is hereby **stayed** by the Division and Respondent is placed on **seven** (7) **years probation**. During the term of probation, Respondent shall comply with the Division's Probation Surveillance Program and the following terms and conditions:

A. <u>SUSPENSION FROM THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE</u>

As part of probation, Respondent shall be suspended from the practice of medicine in California for a period of 45 days beginning with the effective date of the Decision in this matter. During this period of suspension, Respondent is prohibited from engaging in any conduct that requires a physician and surgeon's certificate.

Respondent's failure to comply with this period of suspension shall constitute a breach of this agreement and a violation of probation.

B. COMPLETION OF THE PACE PRESCRIBING PROGRAM¹

Within 90 days of the effective date of the Decision in this matter, Respondent shall, at his expense, enroll in and complete the PACE Prescribing Program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine.

Respondent shall complete this program no later than six months (180 days) after his initial enrollment unless the Division, or its designee, agrees in writing to a later time for completion. Respondent agrees that it will be the determination of the PACE Program faculty as to whether or not he has successfully completed this program and such decision shall be binding.

At such time that Respondent successfully completes the program, he agrees to cause the PACE Program representative to forward a Certification of Successful Completion of the program to the Division or its designee.

Failure by Respondent to successfully complete the PACE Prescribing Program within the time limits outlined above shall constitute a violation of probation.

C. MAINTAIN SEPARATE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING RECORDS

During his period of probation, Respondent shall maintain separate controlled substance prescribing and dispensing records. Respondent shall further make such records open for inspection and copying at any time by any Medical Board personnel, or to any other peace officers of the State of California, on request and without prior notice.

D. <u>BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING</u>

During his period of probation, Respondent shall immediately submit to biological fluid testing, at his own expense, upon request of the Division, or its designee.

1. Respondent successfully completed the full PACE Program at UCSD on or about November 29, 2001. A certificate of completion was issued by PACE on September 30, 2002.

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testing shall constitute a violation of probation.

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E. <u>ETHICS COURSE</u>

4 5 Within ninety (90) days from the effective date of the Decision in this matter, Respondent shall enroll and successfully complete within 180 days an Ethics course approved in advance by the Division, or its designee.

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Failure to complete this Ethics course within the time specified shall constitute a violation of probation.

Respondent's failure to immediately comply with a request for such biological

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F. ADDITIONAL CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Within ninety (90) days from the effective date of the Decision in this matter,

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and on an annual basis thereafter, Respondent shall submit to the Division, or its designee,

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year, totaling no less than 25 hours per year, which are focused on proper medical record

for its prior approval, an educational program or courses to be completed by Respondent each

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keeping, or appropriate insurance billing, or the prescribing of dangerous drugs and

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controlled substances or general medicine. This additional continuing medical education shall

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be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for re-licensure.

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Following his attendance at each course, Respondent shall submit to the Division, or its designee, proof of successful course completion, as well as evidence of a

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passing grade for each course examination taken. In the event the course taken by

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Respondent did not require he be tested on the subject matter of the course, the Division or

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its designee, at its sole discretion, may order and have administered an examination to

MEDICAL PRACTICE MONITOR²

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Respondent to test his knowledge of each individual course taken.

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Within 60 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit

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to the Division, or its designee, for its prior approval, a plan of practice that includes the

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2. Must be a licensed California physician and surgeon who has a working knowledge of the applicable standard of care requirements of Respondent's field of practice.

name and address of a medical practitioner who is willing to monitor Respondent's medical practice, at Respondent's sole expense, for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of the Decision in this matter. The duties of this practice monitor shall be specified in writing by the Division, or its designee, and shall be provided to Respondent on, or shortly thereafter, the effective date of this Decision, to assist Respondent in his efforts to locate a practice monitor suitable to the Division. Once approved, the practice monitor shall be required, among other things, to provide quarterly reports, or more frequently on request, to the Division, or its designee, as to Respondent's continuing compliance with the standards of medical care in California in his provision of medical care to his patients.

Respondent shall permit and help facilitate any and all requested communication between the practice monitor, the billing monitor who is also required as part of this Stipulation, and any of Respondent's patient(s), in order to implement this probation requirement. In addition, Respondent shall also maintain a current and accurate list of patients seen daily, in addition to maintaining individual medical records on such patients, and shall immediately provide this information on request to the Division or its designee, as well to the practice and billing monitors, also in order to implement this probation requirement.

If at any time the approved practice monitor resigns, or is no longer available to perform monitoring duties, Respondent shall, within 30 days, move to have a new monitor appointed, through nomination by Respondent and prior approval by the Division or its designee. In no event may Respondent engage in the practice of medicine in California without an approved monitor for more than a 45 day period, without the written approval of the Division, or its designee. In the absence of such approval, and should such an event occur, Respondent shall immediately cease the practice of medicine until such time as a new practice monitor has been approved by the Division, or its designee, and the new monitor resumes the monitoring duties required by this Stipulation.

In addition to regular monitoring duties, a <u>new</u> practice monitor shall initially review the medical charts of <u>all</u> patients treated by Respondent after the resignation of the

preceding monitor. The <u>new</u> monitor shall then include the findings of such chart reviews in his or her regular quarterly report to the Division, or its designee, or in a special report if so requested by the Division, or its designee.

Failure by Respondent to obtain an approved medical practice monitor within the times specified, or replace within the times specified a monitor who resigns or is no longer available, or continuing to practice in the absence of an approved practice monitor, without prior written approval, shall constitute a violation of probation.

H. MEDICAL PRACTICE BILLING MONITOR³

Within 60 days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall submit to the Division, or its designee, for its prior approval, the name of a billing monitor, together with a plan of practice, in which all of Respondent's third party payment medical practice billings shall be monitored and approved prior to submission for payment, at Respondent's sole expense, during his **seven** (7) **years** of probation. This billing monitor shall provide quarterly reports to the Division, or its designee, or more frequently if requested, as to the findings of such monitoring.

The approved billing monitor shall ensure the accuracy of all third party payment billings being submitted by Respondent for payment, including verification that such billings are consistent with the medical services provided by Respondent. Respondent shall permit, and help facilitate, any and all requested communication between the practice monitor, the billing monitor and any of Respondent's patients for whom third party payments have been submitted, in order to implement this probation requirement.

If the approved billing monitor resigns or is no longer available to perform such duties, Respondent shall, within 30 days, move to have a new billing monitor appointed, through nomination by Respondent and prior approval by the Division or its designee.

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^{3.} Must also be a licensed California physician and surgeon, with a working knowledge of Respondent's field of practice, and may be the same person as the medical practice monitor.

Respondent shall ensure, and must provide documentary evidence on request, that any <u>new</u>, replacement billing monitor, who has been approved by the Division, or its designee, has personally reviewed and approved all third party payment billings created by Respondent after the resignation of the previous billing monitor.

In no event may Respondent submit for payment any third party payment medical billings without an approved billing monitor and before such billings have been approved by the monitor for submission.

Failure by Respondent to obtain an approved third party payment billing monitor within the times specified, or replace within the times specified a billing monitor who resigns or is no longer available, or submits any billing for third party payment that has not been authorized by an approved billing monitor, shall constitute a violation of probation.

I. COST RECOVERY

Respondent shall reimburse the Division \$10,000.00 of the investigative and prosecution costs incurred in this action.

On or before July 31st of each year, during his seven (7) year probationary period, Respondent shall make a payment toward this cost recovery due. Each annual payment shall be in an amount of no less than \$1428.57 (one 7th of the \$10,000.00 cost recovery due), until paid in full.

Failure to pay these cost recovery payments within 30 days of the due date each year, without prior written approval of the Division, or its designee, shall constitute a violation of probation.

It is hereby agreed that the filing of bankruptcy by Respondent at any time during his period of probation shall not relieve him of his obligation to pay this cost recovery to the Division of Medical Quality.

In the event that, at some future date, the Division grants a reduction in Respondent's probationary period in this action, all unpaid cost recovery due pursuant to this Decision shall become immediately due and payable and shall also become a condition precedent to such a future modification of penalty.

J. PAY ANNUAL PROBATION COSTS

Respondent shall pay the costs associated with his probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Division, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs are currently \$2874.00 per year. Annual probation cost payments shall be payable to the Division of Medical Quality and delivered to the designated probation surveillance monitor no later than January 31st of each calendar year.

Failure to pay these annual probation costs within 30 days of the due date, without prior written approval of the Division, or its designee, shall constitute a violation of probation.

It is hereby agreed that the filing of bankruptcy by Respondent at any time during his period of probation shall not relieve him of his obligation to pay these annual probation costs to the Division of Medical Quality.

K. <u>NOTIFICATION</u>

Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, Respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision and Accusation in this matter to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within 15 calendar days of the effective date of the Decision in this matter.

This condition shall apply to any and all future change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

L. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS</u>

During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants while engaged in the private practice of medicine, either in a solo or group practice setting. However, in the event Respondent becomes employed as a full time staff physician at a private hospital or by a governmental agency during his period of probation, and only

during the time he is employed in such a position, Respondent may supervise at least one, but not more than three, physician assistants if required as a term of such employment, but only if such physician assistants are employed by the hospital or governmental agency and not Respondent, and the scope of work to be performed by the physician assistants is defined and monitored by the hospital, not Respondent.

Any modification of this probationary term must be in writing and approved in advance by the Division, or its designee. Failure by Respondent to do so shall constitute a violation of probation.

M. OBEY ALL LAWS

Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.

N. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS

Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Division, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

O. **PROBATION UNIT COMPLIANCE**

Respondent shall comply with the Division's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Division informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Division or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's place of residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician and surgeon's license.

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Respondent shall immediately inform the Division, or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30 calendar days.

P. INTERVIEW WITH THE DIVISION, OR ITS DESIGNEE

Throughout his term of probation, Respondent shall be available in person for interviews with the Division or its designee, at Respondent's place of business or other designated location, upon request and with or without prior notice.

Respondent shall also be available for in person interviews a designated probation office of the Medical Board of California, with prior notice.

Q. RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE

In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice medicine in another state, Respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to his date of departure. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code within the State of California.

All time spent in an intensive training program <u>outside</u> the State of California, which has been approved by the Division or its designee, shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will <u>not</u> apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; Probation Unit Compliance; and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's California medical license shall be automatically canceled if his periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California total two years. However, Respondent's license shall not be canceled as long as Respondent is residing and

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practicing medicine in another state of the United States <u>and</u> is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two year license cancellation period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

R. FAILURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

In the event Respondent continues to reside in the State of California and for any reason stops practicing medicine in California, Respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice. Any period of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will <u>not</u> apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does <u>not</u> relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with all terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program within California, which has been approved in advance by the Division or its designee, shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation, shall <u>not</u> be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's medical license shall be automatically canceled if Respondent resides in California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 within California.

S. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>

Respondent shall satisfy all financial obligations required by this Stipulation (e.g., cost recovery and probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Satisfaction of such costs are a condition precedent to final termination of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.

T. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>

Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Division, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Division shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

U. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u>

Following the effective date of this Decision, if Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request the voluntary surrender of his medical license. The Division reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Division or its designee and Respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of Respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If Respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.

- 15. Respondent agrees to comply with the requirements of all provisions of this Stipulation, in the time and manner specified herein. Failure to do so shall constitute not only a violation of probation, but also a separate and additional act, or acts, of general unprofessional conduct for which additional discipline may be sought and thereafter imposed by the Division.
- 16. If the Division adopts this Stipulation, and Respondent thereafter fails to fulfill his obligations as set forth herein, the Division, in its sole discretion, may take whatever action it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare, including

resuming the prosecution of the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation appended hereto as **Exhibit A**. If such shall occur, except for this paragraph, this Stipulation will no longer be of any force or effect and it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties. Upon nullification of this Stipulation, the Board, in its sole discretion, may proceed on the original Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation in this matter, or may proceed on an amended and/or supplemental Accusation and/or may proceed in any manner or in any fashion it deems appropriate.

Respondent hereby agrees to waive any affirmative statute of limitations defense that may then exist as to the currently pending charges in the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation, appended hereto as **Exhibit A**, should the Division be compelled, for the reasons specified in this paragraph, to resume the prosecution of the allegations in the original Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation.

17. This Stipulation is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties herein.

CONTINGENCY

This Stipulation shall be subject to the approval of the Division of Medical Quality. Respondent and his counsel understand and agree that Medical Board staff and counsel for Complainant may communicate directly with the Division regarding this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel.

If the Division fails to adopt this Stipulation as its Order, the Stipulation shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Division shall not be disqualified from further action in this matter by virtue of its consideration of this Stipulation.

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ACCEPTANCE 2 I have read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed the terms and conditions and other matters contained therein with my attorney, William R. Winship, Esq. 4 I understand the effect this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order will 5 have on my Physician and Surgeon's Certificate, and agree to be bound thereby. 6 7 I enter into this Stipulation freely, knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily. 8 DATED: 9 10 Respondent I have read and have fully discussed the terms and conditions and other matters 11 contained in this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order with Respondent, DALE R. 12 MONGRAIN, M.D., and I approve of its form and content. 13 DATED: 14 15 Attorney for Respondent 16 **ENDORSEMENT** 17 This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully 18 submitted for consideration by the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California, 19 Department of Consumer Affairs. 20 21 L LOCKYER, Attorney General 22 of the State of California 23 24

Exhibit A: Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation Nos. D-1 10-1997-080340 / 19-2000-114368

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Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

EXHIBIT A

ACCUSATION and PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION Nos. D-1 10-1997-080340 / 19-2000-114368

FILED BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO MANOR 20 DE of the State of California 2 D. KENNETH BAUMGARTEN, State Bar No. 124371 Deputy Attorney General 3 California Department of Justice 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101 5 P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 6 Telephone: (619) 645-2195 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061 7 Attorneys for Complainant 8 **BEFORE THE** 9 **DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY** MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA 10 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA 11 12 In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to Case No. D1-1997-080340 Revoke Probation Against: 13 DALE R. MONGRAIN, M.D. 14 135 Main Street Brawley, California 92227 ACCUSATION AND PETITION 15 TO REVOKE PROBATION Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 29446 16 17 Respondent. 18 19 Complainant alleges: 20 **PARTIES** 21 Ron Joseph ("Complainant") brings this Petition to Revoke Probation 1. solely in his official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, 22 23 Department of Consumer Affairs. On or about June 16, 1975, the Medical Board of California issued Physician's 24 and Surgeon's Certificate No. G29446 to Dale R. Mongrain, M.D. ("Respondent"). Said certificate 25 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on 26 December 31, 2003, unless renewed. 27 28 ///

JURISDICTION

- 5. This Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation is brought before the Division of Medical Quality, Medical Board of California ("Division"), under the authority of the following sections of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") and the Disciplinary Orders in Case No. 10-1997-80340.
- 6. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Division deems proper.

7. Section 2234 of the Code states:

"The Division of Medical Quality shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, any provision of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
 - "(c) Repeated negligent acts.
 - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
- "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate."

8. Section 810 of the Code states:

- (a) It shall constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of a license or certificate, for a health care professional to do any of the following in connection with his or her professional; activities:
- (1) Knowingly present or cause to be presented any false or fraudulent claim for the payment of a loss under a contract of insurance.

- (2) Knowingly prepare, make, or subscribe in any writing, with the intent to present or use the same, or to allow it to be presented or used in support of any false or fraudulent claim.
- 9. Section 725 of the Code states that "repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing or administering of drugs or treatment, repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic procedures, or repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic treatment facilities as determined by the standard of the community of licensees" is unprofessional conduct.
- 10. Section 2261 of the Code states that "knowingly making or signing any certificate or other document directly or indirectly related to the practice of medicine which falsely represents the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts, constitutes unprofessional conduct."
- 11. Section 2266 of the Code states that "the failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct."
- 12. Disciplinary Order in Case No. 10-1997-80340 provides in paragraph 5, page 7, that respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.
- 13. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Division may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.
 - 14. Section 14124.12 of the Welfare and Institutions Code states, in pertinent part:
 - "(a) Upon receipt of written notice from the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, or the Board of Dental Examiners of California, that a licensee's license had been placed on probation as a result of a disciplinary action, the department may not reimburse any Medi-Cal claim for the type of surgical service or invasive procedure that gave rise to the probation, including any dental surgery or invasive procedure, that was performed by the licensee on or after the effective date of probation and until the termination of all probationary and conditions or until the probationary period has ended, whichever occurs first. This section shall apply except in any case in which the relevant licensing board

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determines that compelling circumstances warrant the continued reimbursement during the probationary period of any Medi-Cal claim, including any claim for dental services, as so described. In such a case, the department shall continue to reimburse the licensee for all procedures, except for those invasive or surgical procedures for which the licensee was placed on probation."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE AND REVOCATION OF PROBATION

(Gross Negligence, Repeated Negligent Acts, Incompetence, Dishonesty)

- 15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action as a result of his violating section 2234(b), (c), (d), and (e) on account of the following:
 - A. On or about June 8, 1999, 36 year-old M.D. sustained a work related injury as a result of a fall he took on the job. He was evaluated that same day at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Brawley. The medical evaluation included x-rays of the lumbar spine, left hip, pelvis and chest. They were negative for fracture. At the time he was discharged from the emergency room, M.D. was diagnosed with a sprain of the lower back and left hip, and a left chest wall contusion.
 - B. Respondent examined M.D. later that same day following his discharge. His exam purportedly revealed extreme pain in the chest region. Respondent diagnosed frontal right rib tenderness and possible kidney swelling. He also prescribed a regimen of physical therapy, and various pain medications including Talwin, Toradol, Vistaril, and Robaxin. Respondent also ordered a urine culture and various blood studies.
 - C. During the next several weeks, respondent saw M.D. on a daily basis for various complaints of neck, chest, and low back pain. Respondent ordered extensive physical therapy, intramuscular pain medication, intramuscular relaxants, and steroid and local anesthetic injections into various tender areas.
 - D. Although M.D. was satisfactory to return to work on or about June 15, 1999, he continued treatment with respondent until July 20, 1999, at which time respondent described the patient as non-compliant.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE AND REVOCATION OF PROBATION

(Insurance Fraud)

16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for violating Code section 810 in that he committed Insurance Fraud by submitting bills for charges in excess of \$20,000 for the care and treatment of patient M.D. Paragraphs 14 and 15, in their entirety, are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE AND REVOCATION OF PROBATION

(Excessive Prescribing or Treatment)

17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for violating Code section 725 in that he repeatedly excessively prescribed to and/or treated M.D. Respondent repeatedly prescribed excessive amounts of pain medications, injected excessive amounts of steroids and local anesthetics, and authorized excessive physical therapy to patient M.D., as set forth in paragraphs 14 and 15, which are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

FOURTH CAUSE TO DISCIPLINE AND REVOKE PROBATION

(Violation of Probation and Inadequate Documentation)

- 18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2266 and subject to revocation of probation under Disciplinary Order 10-97-80340, paragraph 5. The circumstances are as follows:
 - A. On or about December 19, 2001, respondent met with his monitor Dr. B.B. At that time he presented for the monitor's review 16 patient charts. In his January 7, 2002, letter to the Medical Board about that review the monitor wrote:

"Unfortunately, many of these charts **continue** to exhibit evidence of routine ordering of multiple lab tests, without regard to patient's presenting complaint In addition, a number of charts demonstrated the ordering of in-office spirometry, EKGs, and occasional holter monitoring without clear indications for such testing." [emphasis added].

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B. The monitor also expressed some concerns about potential patient safety as a result of respondent's inability to respond to abnormal lab results.

"Lastly, and most concerning, there was new evidence of critical lab values - such as potassium of 8.6, or a prothrombin time of 90 in a patient on coumadin, being filed in the chart without any evidence or documentation that the patient was emergently contacted for repeat testing, or that necessary adjustments in the patient's medication level or electrolyte status were made - or even considered. This is particularly concerning in that inattention to these values could be life-threatening for a patient." [emphasis added].

- C. After being contacted by respondent, who, in turn, had been contacted by his attorney, the monitor wrote the probation supervising investigator a letter on February 12, 2002, and attempted to emphasize that his prior letter reflected on respondent's lack of necessary documentation, not his medical judgment. Referring to his January 2002 letter the monitor said, "In reality, however, these comments were **again** focused on Dr. Mongrain's lack of appropriate charting to justify ordering of various diagnostic lab tests, and lack of adequate documentation in the management of **potentially critical abnormal lab values.**" [underline in original; emphasis added].
- 20. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because he continues to exhibit an inability to appropriately document in patients' charts to the extent it jeopardizes his patient's health, safety, and welfare. Paragraph 19 is incorporated in its entirety as if fully set forth herein.

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS

21. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on respondent, Complainant alleges that on July 20, 1987, in Case No. D-3350, a full temporary restraining order prohibiting respondent from practicing medicine was issued. That order was dissolved on September 16, 1987. On August 5, 1987, an Accusation was filed against respondent and on

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1	4. Ordering Dale R. Mongrain, M.D. to pay the Division of Medical Quality
2	the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and, if place on further
3	probation, the costs of probation monitoring.
4	5. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
5	DATED: <u>March 28, 2002</u> .
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8	RON JOSEPH, Executive Director
9	Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs
10	State of California Complainant
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12	pet revoke prob.wpt 3/22/02 SHZ:pll 3/22/02
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EXHIBIT "A"

BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

))	
)	No: 10-1997-80340
) ·	
)

DECISION

The attached Stipulation in Settlement and Order is hereby adopted by the Division of Medical Quality as its Decision in the above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2000.

IT IS SO ORDERED January 14, 2000 .

By:

IRA LUBELL, M.D.

President

Division of Medical Quality

of the State of California 2 SANFORD FELDMAN, Deputy Attorney General 3 State Bar No. 47775 Department of Justice 4 110 West A Street, Suite 1100 Post Office Box 85266 5 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2079 6 Attorneys for Complainant 7 8 **BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY** 9 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 10 STATE OF CALIFORNIA In the Matter of the Accusation 11 Case No. 10-97-80340 Against: 12 DALE ROBERT MONGRAIN, M.D. STIPULATION 13 135 Main Street IN SETTLEMENT P.O. Box 159 AND ORDER 14 Brawley, CA 92227 15 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 29446 16 Respondent. 17 18 19 Complainant, Ron Joseph, Executive Director of the Medical Board of California ("Board"), by and through his 20 attorney, Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of the State of 21 California, by Sanford Feldman, Deputy Attorney General, and Dale 22 23 Robert Mongrain, M.D. ("respondent"), by and through his attorney 24 William R. Winship, Esq., hereby stipulate as follows: 25 The Division of Medical Quality of the Board 26 ("Division") acquired jurisdiction over respondent by reason of

BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General

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the following:

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- A. Respondent was duly served with a copy of the Accusation, Statement to Respondent, Request for Discovery, Form Notice of Defense and copies of Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6 and 11507.7 as required by section 11503 and 11505, and respondent timely filed a Notice of Defense within the time allowed by section 11506 of the code.
- B. Respondent has received and read the Accusation which is presently on file as Case No. 10-97-80340 before the Division. Respondent understands the nature of the charges alleged in the Accusation and that the charges and allegations constitute cause for imposing discipline upon respondent's license to practice medicine which was issued by the Board.
- 2. Respondent and his counsel are aware of each of respondent's rights, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses who would testify against respondent, the right to present evidence in his favor and call witnesses on his behalf, or to testify, his right to contest the charges and allegations, and other rights which are accorded to respondent pursuant to the California Administrative Procedure Act (Gov. Code, § 11500 et seq.), including the right to seek reconsideration, review by the superior court, and appellate review.
- 3. Respondent freely and voluntarily waives each and every one of the rights set forth in paragraph 2.

- 5. For the purpose of resolving Accusation
 No. 10-97-80340, respondent admits that he failed to maintain adequate and accurate medical records, in violation of Business and Professions Code section 2266, as alleged in the Accusation.
 Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest the charges and allegations in the Accusation and agrees to be bound by the Division's Disciplinary Order as set forth below.
- 6. It is understood by respondent that, in deciding whether to adopt this stipulation, the Division may receive oral and written communications from its staff and the Attorney General's office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Division or other persons from future participation in this or any other matter affecting respondent. In the event this settlement is not adopted by the Division, the stipulation will not become effective and may not be used for any purpose, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in effect.
- 7. This Stipulation in Settlement and Decision is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties.
- 8. The parties agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulation, including facsimile signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures. The

facsimile copies will have the same force and effect as originals.

9. Based upon the foregoing, it is stipulated and agreed that the Division may issue the following as its decision in this case.

ORDER

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 29446 issued to Dale Robert Mongrain, M.D., is revoked. However, revocation of said certificate is stayed and respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the terms and conditions set forth below. Within 15 days after the effective date of this decision, respondent shall provide the Division, or its designee, proof of service that respondent has served a true copy of this decision on the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to respondent or where respondent is employed to practice medicine and on the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier where malpractice insurance coverage is extended to respondent.

1. EDUCATION COURSE

Within 90 days from the effective date of this decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, respondent shall submit to the Division or its designee for its prior approval an educational program or course to be designated by the Division, which shall not be less than 25 hours per year for each year of probation. This program shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education requirements for re-licensure. Following the

completion of each course, the Division or its designee may administer an examination to test respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 45 hours of continuing medical education of which 25 hours were in satisfaction of this condition and were approved in advance by the Division or its designee.

2. ETHICS COURSE

Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of

this decision, respondent shall enroll in a course in Ethics
approved in advance by the Division or its designee, and shall
successfully complete the course during the first year of
probation.

3. CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Within 90 days from the effective date of this decision, respondent, at his expense, shall enroll in The Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine (hereinafter, the "PACE Program") and shall undergo assessment, clinical training and examination. First, respondent shall undergo the comprehensive assessment program including the measurement of medical skills and knowledge and the appraisal of physical health and psychological testing. After assessment, the PACE Evaluation Committee will review all results and make a recommendation to the Division or its designee and the respondent and other authorized personnel regarding clinical training (including scope and length), treatment of any medical and/or psychological condition and any other matters affecting

respondent's practice of medicine. Upon approval of the recommendation by the Division or its designee, respondent shall undertake and complete the recommended and approved PACE Program. At the completion of the PACE Program, respondent shall submit to examination on its contents and substance. The examination shall be designed and administered by the PACE Program faculty. Respondent shall not be deemed to have successfully completed the program unless he passes the examination. Respondent agrees that the determination of the PACE Program faculty as to whether or not he passed the examination and/or successfully completed the PACE Program shall be binding.

Respondent shall complete the PACE Program no later than six months after his initial enrollment unless the Division or its designee agrees in writing to a later time for completion.

If respondent successfully completes the PACE Program, including the examination referenced above, he agrees to cause the PACE Program representative to forward a Certification of Successful Completion of the program to the Division or its designee. If respondent fails to successfully complete the PACE Program within the time limits outlined above, he shall be suspended from the practice of medicine.

Failure to participate in, and successfully complete all phases of the PACE Program, as outlined above, shall constitute a violation of probation.

4. MONITORING

Within 30 days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the Division or its designee for its

prior approval a plan of practice by which respondent's determinations of appropriate laboratory testing and his billing for such testing shall be monitored for the first two years of probation by another physician in respondent's field of practice, who shall provide periodic reports to the Division or its designee.

If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, respondent shall, within 15 days, move to have a new monitor appointed, through nomination by respondent and approval by the Division or its designee.

5. OBEY ALL LAWS

Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.

6. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Division, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

7. PROBATION SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Respondent shall comply with the Division's probation surveillance program. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Division informed of his or her addresses of business and residence which shall both serve as addresses of record. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to ///

the Division. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record.

Respondent shall also immediately inform the Division, in writing, of any travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30 days.

8. INTERVIEW WITH THE DIVISION, ITS DESIGNEE OR ITS DESIGNATED PHYSICIAN(S)

Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Division, its designee or its designated physician(s) upon request at various intervals and with reasonable notice.

9. TOLLING FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE, RESIDENCE OR IN-STATE NON-PRACTICE

In the event respondent should leave California to reside or to practice outside the State or for any reason should respondent stop practicing medicine in California, respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing within ten days of the dates of departure and return or the dates of non-practice within California. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code. All time spent in an intensive training program approved by the Division or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California or of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will not apply to the reduction of

the probationary period. During periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California or of non-practice within California; as defined in this condition, respondent is not required to comply with any terms and conditions of probation other than the requirement for the payment of cost recovery, as set in paragraph 13 below.

10. COMPLETION OF PROBATION

Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.

11. VIOLATION OF PROBATION

If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Division, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Division shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

12. COST RECOVERY

Within 90 days of the effective date of this order, respondent shall pay the Division the amount of \$2,850.50 for its investigation and prosecution costs. Failure to reimburse the Division's cost of its investigation and prosecution as set forth herein shall constitute a violation of the probation order, unless the Division agrees in writing to payment by an installment plan because of financial hardship. The filing of bankruptcy by the respondent shall not relieve the respondent of

his/her responsibility to reimburse the Division for its investigative and prosecution costs.

13. PROBATION MONITORING COSTS

16.

Respondent shall pay the costs associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation. Such costs, which are currently set at \$2,304 per year and may vary from year to year, shall be payable to the Division at the beginning of each calendar year. Failure to pay such costs shall constitute a violation of probation.

14. LICENSE SURRENDER

Following the effective date of this decision, if respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may voluntarily tender his/her certificate to the Division. The Division reserves the right to evaluate the respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license, respondent will no longer be subject to terms and conditions of probation.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read and fully understand the stipulation and order set forth above. I have discussed the terms and conditions set forth in the stipulation and order with my attorney, William R. Winship, Esq. I understand that in signing this stipulation I am waiving my right to a hearing on the charges set forth in the Accusation on file in this matter.

1	I further understand that in signing this stipulation the
2	Division may enter the foregoing order placing certain
3	requirements, restrictions and limitations on my right to .
4	practice medicine in the State of California.
5	DATED: 12/21/99
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8	- Oal R. Monagin M.O.
9	Dale Robert Mongrain, M.D. Respondent
10	I concur in the Stipulation.
11	DATED: $12/21/99$
12	DATED:
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14	Myniling
15	WILLIAM R. WINSHIP
16	Attorney for Respondent
17	I concur in the Stipulation.
18	DATED: 12/21/99.
19	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California
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22	Salora filel
23	SANFORD FELDMAN Deputy Attorney General
24	Attorneys for Complainant
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